

THE WAR IN AFRICA.

The Greatest Defeat England Has Suffered Since Yorktown.

London, Jan 28.—Gen Buller's dispatch to the war office states that Spion kop was abandoned on account of lack of water, inability to bring artillery there and the heavy Boer fire. Gen Buller gives no list of casualties. His whole force with drew south of Tugela river, with the evident intention of reaching Ladysmith by another route.

Following is the text of Gen Buller's dispatch, dated Spearman's camp, Saturday, Jan 27, 6 10 p m:

"On Jan 20 Warren drove back the enemy and obtained possession of the southern crest of the hill and table land extending from the line of Acton Homes to Hlongersport to the western Ladysmith hills. From then to Jan 25 he remained in close contact with the enemy. The enemy held a strong position on a range of small kopjes stretching from north west to southeast, across the plateau from Acton Homes, through Spion kop, to the left bank of the Tugela.

"The actual position held was perfectly tenable, but did not lend itself to an advance, as the southern slopes were so steep that Warren could not get an effective artillery position, and water supply was a difficulty.

"On Jan 23 I assented to his attacking Spion kop, a large hill, (indeed, a mountain), which was evidently the key of the position, but was far more accessible from the north than from the south.

"On the night of Jan 23 he attacked Spion kop but found it very difficult to hold, as its perimeter was too large, and water, which he had been led to believe existed in this extraordinary dry season, was found very deficient.

"The crests were held all that day against severe attacks and a heavy shell fire. Our men fought with great gallantry. I would especially mention the conduct of the Second Cameroonian and the Third King's Rifles, who supported the attack on the mountain from the steepest side, and in each case fought their way to the top; and the Second Lancashire Fusiliers and Second Middlesex, who magnificently maintained the best traditions of the British army throughout the trying day of Jan 24, and Thorneycroft's mounted infantry who fought throughout the day equal to well alongside of them.

"Gen Woodgate, who was in command at the summit having been wounded the officer who succeeded him decided on the night of Jan 24 to abandon the position, and did so before dawn, Jan 25.

"I reached Warren's camp at 5 a. m. on Jan 25, and decided that a second attack upon Spion kop was useless and that the enemy's right was too strong to allow me to force it. Accordingly, I decided to withdraw the force to the south of the Tugela. At 6 a m we commenced withdrawing the train, and by 8 a. m., Jan 27 (Saturday), Warren's force was concentrated south of the Tugela without the loss of a man or a pound of stores.

"The fact that the force could withdraw from actual touch—in some cases the lines were less than a thousand yards apart—with the enemy in the manner it did is, I think, sufficient evidence of the morale of the troops, and that we were permitted to withdraw our cumbersome ox and mule transport across the river—55 yards broad, with 20 foot banks and a very swift current—unmolested is, I think, proof that the enemy has been taught to respect our soldiers' fighting powers."

During the morning and the earlier part of the afternoon a placard, bearing the words, "No news," hung on the iron railing in front of the war office, and the shivering sentries who stood guard on Pall Mall in the rain and sleet had the district all to themselves. About 8 p m, however, the placard was taken in, and on the bulletin boards inside, Gen Buller's long dispatch was displayed.

The Sunday papers issued extra, but only the faintest interest was manifested on the streets. At the service clubs the situation, as revealed by Gen Buller, was considered very unpleasant. His excuses or explanations were characterized as very weak. The absence of water, which Sir Charles Warren was "led to believe" existed, and the facts that Spion kop was "indeed a mountain" and that its "perimeter was too large" are all matters which even Gen Buller's warmest admirers hold should have been ascertained before the attack.

One comforting feature of the situation, however, is the fact that Gen Buller's retirement across the Tugela was accomplished without loss, which puts an end to the unpleasant rumors that were in circulation here and on the continent. The splendid gallantry of the men in capturing Spion kop is read with great pride and satisfaction. It is taken as an assurance of the ultimate success of the British arms.

The war office does not give any idea of the casualties in taking and holding Spion kop, but a report from the Boer headquarters near Ladysmith, via Lourenço Marques, says that 1,500 British dead were left on the battlefield. This number is thought to include the wounded.

The report also said that Gen Buller had been down with fever but had recovered.

If Boer reports are to be accepted, "the abandonment of Spion kop was due to the inability of the British to resist the Boer attack, the Boers carrying the first trenches and taking 150 prisoners."

The following dispatch has been received in London from Pretoria, dated Jan 25, via Lourenço Marques, Jan 28:

"The government is advised that, after heavy fighting near Spion kop, some British on the kop being stormed hoisted a white flag. One hundred and fifty prisoners God be thanked, although we also had to give brave and valuable lives."

FIFTEEN HUNDRED DEAD LEFT ON THE FIELD.

Boer Headquarters, Modder Spruit, Upper Tugela, Wednesday, Jan 24, (midnight) via Lourenço Marques, Thursday, Jan 25.—Some Vryheid burghers, outposts on the highest hills of the Spion kop group, rushed into the laager saying that the kop was lost and that the English had taken it. Reinforcements were ordered up, but nothing could be done for some time, the hill being enveloped in thick mist.

At dawn the Heidelberg and Carolina contingents, supplemented from other commandoes, began the ascent of the hill. The spurs, precipitous projections, faced the Boer positions. Up these the advance was made. The horses were left under the first terrace of rocks. Sealing the steep hill the Boers found that the English had improved the opportunity and entrenched heavily. Between the lines of trenches was an open field, which had to be rushed under a heavy fire, not only from rifles but of lyddite and shrapnel from field guns.

Three forces ascended the three spurs co-ordinately under cover of the fire from the Free State Krupps, a Cresset and a big Maxim. The English tried to rush the Boers with the bayonet, but their infantry went down before the Boer rifle fire as before a scythe.

The Boer investing party advanced step by step until 2 in the afternoon, when a white flag went up and 150 men in the front trenches surrendered, being sent as prisoners to the head laager.

The Boer advance continued on the two kopjes east of Spion kop. Many Boers were shot, but so numerous were the burghers that the gaps filled automatically. Toward twilight they reached the summit of the second kopje, but did not get further.

The British Maxims belched flame, but a wall of fire from the Mausers held the English back. Their centre, under pressure, gradually gave way and broke, abandoning the position.

The prisoners speak highly of the bravery of the burghers, who, despite the cover, stood against the skyline edge of the summit to shoot the Dublin Fusiliers, sheltered in the trenches.

Firing continued for some time, and then the Fusiliers and the Light Horse serving as infantry threw up their arms and rushed out of the trenches.

The effect of the abandonment of Spion kop by the English can hardly be gauged as yet, but it must prove to be immense.

An unusually high proportion of lyddite shells did not explode.

Boer Head Laager, Ladysmith, Jan 25, 6 p m.—The British dead left on the battlefield yesterday numbered 1,500.

An Invasion of The Free State May Begin, in Two Weeks.

London, Jan 30.—4 15 a m.—History pauses for a time in South Africa. It is one of these uneasy factory pauses that are nearly so trying to British nerves as a sequence of reverses and apparently will terminate only when Lord Roberts gives the word for the forward movement into the Free State, which, according to the most cheerful view, he will be unable to do for a fortnight.

Whether he will permit Gen Buller to make another attempt to relieve Ladysmith is quite outside the knowledge even of those closely connected with the war office. With the troops due to arrive next month, he may think himself strong enough to try two large operations. Combining the forces under Gen Methuen, French and Gatacre, and adding to them the arriving troops, Lord Roberts would have 70,000 for the invasion of the Free State with 40,000 to 50,000 guarding communications, and 40,000 trying to rescue Ladysmith.

The public burns with impatience that something should be done, but there is nothing to do but to wait on the preparations. Oceans of ink are poured out in advice. Orators are at work in the provinces telling the people that England has "set her teeth in grim determination to see it through."

The government's declarations in parliament, the counter suggestions of those outside the government, and consequent discussion in the press and on the platform will immediately enthrall public interest. The thing on which everybody seems agreed is that men must go.

Twenty thousand two hundred and twenty-two men and 155 guns are at sea. Eleven thousand infantry and nine thousand cavalry, including 5,000 yeomen, are practical ready to embark. Therefore the government without doing more, can place at the disposal of Lord Roberts 40,000 ad-

ditional men and 155 guns. The further purposes of the war office are supposed to embrace somewhere in the neighborhood of 50,000 more men, as the indication is that candidates would be rather scarce, the war office will issue orders for those reservists who were found unfit at the previous mobilization examination to report for further examination.

Applications for cavalry service are still freely offering as yeomanry THE DUTCH TRAP ON SPION KOP.

London, Jan 30.—A special from Frere Camp dated Friday, Jan 26th, 9 10 p m, says:

"I have just ridden in here, having left Gen Buller's forces in the new position south of the Tugela, to which they retired in consequence of the reverse at Spion kop.

"The fighting, both before and after the occupation of the mountain, was of a desperate character. Spion kop is a precipitous mountain overtopping the whole line of kopjes along the Upper Tugela. On the eastern side of the mountain faces Mount Alice and Potgieters drift, standing at right angles to the Boer central position and Littleton's advance position. The southern point descends in abrupt steps to the lower line of kopjes. On the western side, opposite the right outposts of Warren's force, it is inaccessibly steep, until the point where the neck joins the kop, the main range. Then there is a gentle slope which allows easy access to the summit.

"The neck was strongly held by the Boers, who also occupied a heavy spur parallel with the kop, where the enemy was concealed in no fewer than 35 rifle pits, and was thus enabled to bring to bear upon our men a damaging cross fire, the only possible point for a British attack being the southern side, with virtually sheer precipices on the left and right.

"A narrow footpath admitting men in single file only to the summit, opens into a perfectly flat table land, probably of 300 (?) square yards, upon which the Boers had hastily commenced to make a transverse trench. Our men were able to occupy the further end of this table land, where the ridge descended to an other flat, which was again succeeded by a round, stony eminence held by the Boers in great strength.

"The ridge held by our men was faced by a number of strong little kopjes at all angles, whence the Boers sent a concentrated fire from their rifles, supported by a Maxim Nordenfildt and a big long range gun. What, with the rifles, the machine gun and the big gun, the summit was converted into a perfect hell. The shells exploded continually in our ranks; and the rifle fire, from an absolutely unseen enemy, was perfectly appalling.

"Reinforcements were hurried up by Gen Warren but they had to cross a stretch of flat ground, which was literally torn by the flying lead of the enemy. The unfinished trench on the summit gave very questionable shelter, as the enemy's machine guns were so accurately trained upon the place that often 16 shells fell in the trench in a single minute.

"Mortal men could not permanently hold such a position. Our gallant fellows held it tenaciously for 24 hours and then, taking advantage of the dark night, abandoned it to the enemy."

Not Seeking Peace.

Berlin, Jan 23.—The Deutsch Tag Zeitung publishes an interview today with Dr. Leyds, which represents him as having said:

"The war will certainly last a very long time. The Transvaal will decidedly not be the first to seek peace, and will refuse any proposals on the basis of the status quo."

A LION IN BERLIN

London, Jan 28.—The Berlin correspondent of The Daily Mail says:

"Dr. Leyds is a popular lion here. He is being welcomed with an enthusiasm ordinarily extended only to most favored envoys. I have ascertained from unimpeachable evidence that he is trying to induce Germany to mediate."

Austin Tex Jan 28.—All south and central Texas was today visited by a very severe blizzard, which increases in severity as the night grows, and from present indications it will be the worst blizzard of the winter. The temperature has fallen 30 degrees since noon.

It is said that a printing office in western Michigan is opened with prayer. "This is a rare exception to the rule," says an eastern Michigan newspaper, "as from time immemorial it has been the custom for the office to be opened by the devil and closed by the sheriff."

Having a Great Run on Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Manager Martin, of the Pierce drug store, informs us that he is having a great run on Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. He sells five bottles of that medicine to one of any other kind, and it gives great satisfaction. In these days of influenza there is nothing like Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to stop the cough, heal up the sore throat and lungs and give relief within a very short time. The sales are growing and all who try it are pleased with its prompt action.—South Chicago Daily Calumet. For sale by Dr. A. J. Chien.

Senator Tillman Speaks

Washington, Jan 29.—In accordance with previous announcement, Mr. Tillman, South Carolina, delivered an address upon the Philippine question. His discussion of the subject was general.

Mr. Tillman deprecated the idea that a man is disloyal to the flag if he declares his belief that prosecution of the war in the Philippines is disloyalty to the declaration of independence, and said he was "ready to locate the responsibility for the blood that has been spilled."

"I impugn no man's motives," he said, "but whether the president be most to blame or whether the crime rests on his dupes and subservient party dependents I say, with all the emphasis of my nature, that I and none of those who voted against the treaty are responsible for the spilling of one drop of this innocent blood that has been shed, and I will not endure patiently and without resentment any such accusation."

Mr. Tillman then discussed at length the race question as it relates to the Philippines, in the course of which he expressed strong dissent from the statement made recently by Senator Morgan, that the civil war was precipitated by designing politicians who desired to thrust the negro with social and political equality upon the whites of the south.

Scouting the charge the Filipinos were not capable of self government, he said:

"If the Filipino leaders and their followers, those men of affairs, men so strong in the faith of the right of men to govern themselves after our great example, that, although illy armed and without artillery, it has required sixty thousand American troops over a year to drive them from the field and even yet they have not surrendered, but have adopted a guerrilla warfare—if these are not fit for self government under our kindly tutelage, let me ask of those republicans here who in part are responsible for it, and who were and are now in absolute sympathy with it, how dared they give the control of southern States into the hands of negroes as being fit not only to govern themselves, but also to govern white men? If the Filipinos are children, what were and are the ex slaves of the south? How dared republicans appeal to the northern masses to compel the south to grant the negroes a free vote and a fair count when it involved negro rule pure and simple? Were the fruits of the war mere Sodom apples to be turned to ashes in such a brief span? Are the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to be nullified in their very essence because they failed of their purpose in the south? Are they for home use only? Is the flag to become again a 'flaunting lie' and float over a military despotism, first in the Philippines and later at home? Was the memorable conflict between slavery and freedom useless? Have we gained nothing? Is the commercial greed which dominates in our councils and coerces the president to do his bloody and dirty work to make of the constitution a new 'league with death and a covenant with hell' in the interest of oppression akin to slavery? In order to do all these things, must we 'camp outside the constitution' and give the old interpretation of the southern slave holders to the declaration of independence and nullify all precedents and decisions of our supreme court? Did this nation offer up of its best and bravest upon the altar of liberty the blood of several thousand men and spend and destroy five billions of treasure that we might have a 'government of the people, by the people, for the people,' to find that in the brief span of one man's life the sacrifice was vain, the civil war a mistake, and that the colored race has no rights we are bound to repeat at home or abroad?"

Adverting to Mr. Beveridge's quotations from the Bible, Mr. Tillman said: "I have heard that the devil can quote Scripture for his own purposes. Why, I can quote Scripture myself (laughter). Verily, verily, I say unto you, senator from Indiana (pointing his finger dramatically at Mr. Beveridge, who sat within a few feet of him) 'you cannot gather figs from thorns, nor grapes from thistles.'"

"If we mete out despotism and bayonet rule to that people, will it not be meted back to us? It need not be from a foreign source that the government by bayonet will ever oppress the American people. Our danger lies in familiarizing our people with the despotic methods, in abandoning the American ideals and the principles of our fathers.

"The curse of bayonet rule will come back to plague you as sure as there is a God in heaven."

In conclusion, Mr. Tillman said: "I protest against the continuance of this unholy war. The president has declared that upon congress rests the responsibility. He shifts the burden of his mistake and endeavors to shift it to our shoulders. Let us give those people a government of their own, the only self government, in whatever form they might select, and be rid of the burden as well as the shame which must be ours if we do not. Let us protect them against outside interference and in a small part compensate them for the wrongs we have done them."

"In the name of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, let us stop this war, which was a hideous blunder in its beginning. It is now a war of conquest, a crime in the sight of God and man."

The General Assembly.

Columbia, Jan 29.—The house worked for two hours this morning on Mr. Patton's resolution looking to a constitutional amendment by which cities like Columbia and Charleston may issue bonds for waterworks or sewerage. The Constitution now prohibits the issuance of bonds in excess of 8 per cent of the assessment of city property, and the proposed constitutional amendment is to do away with that bar for the specific purpose of improving the waterworks and sewerage systems, provided the debt shall not run over the 15 per cent limit. There was considerable discussion about the measure and debate was finally adjourned until the night session, so that the matter might be fully digested and the amendments better understood.

Mr. Blease this morning offered a concurrent resolution that the two judiciary committees report to the house and senate as to whether or not a United States Senator, member of Congress or State or county officer can hold the position of college trustee, except ex officio, under the Constitution. There was some inquiry about the resolution and when it was intended to receive the report. The committee is to report on the question at once. The resolution was adopted without debate.

SENATE

The senate in its two hours' morning session killed the bill providing that the penitentiary shall manufacture acid phosphates. It received considerable support and gave some members of the body an opportunity to strike light blows at the so-called Fertilizer Trust. The bill was Senator Connor's and it has been advocated by him in the Legislature for several years. It was rejected by a vote of 20 to 16. The bill provided that a plant capable of turning out 100,000 tons be erected, the payment for it to be made out of the penitentiary funds not otherwise appropriated. It provided also that the profit shall be 5 per cent over cost price.

The joint resolution for the preparation and completion of the history to accompany the Confederate rolls came up for a second reading.

Senator Archer moved to indefinitely postpone the bill and without discussion or opposition the motion was adopted. It was a house bill which had successfully passed that body.

As illustration showing the possibilities of a "little farm well tilled," we quote from the Columbus, Ga., Ledger the following which we find in The Atlanta Constitution: "A man in Brooks County has in the last twenty-five or thirty years made \$20,000 with a one-horse farm. For several years in succession he cleared \$1,000 above his expenses each year. He never allows any trash burned on his farm, never allows his beggar weeds out or pastured, plows everything under, and goes back to the soil. He carries his corn to the mill on the back of his horse, but leads the horse and never rides him, which saves the animal. He has plenty of substantial food, but does not live extravagantly, and can do without almost anything the merchant sells, if he likes, and does do it if the price does not suit him. He is independent of every trust in the world so far as his part would go. He works about fifty acres with his mule, and himself and family do all their work, making 400 or 500 bushels of corn, twelve to fifteen bales of cotton and plenty of syrup, meat and potatoes. He lends money over the county to good people at 8 per cent. Never sends money off but keeps it at home among the neighbors. He is said to have some \$8,000 or \$10,000 cash, and all made from a little one horse farm, which he still conducts."

A Case of Stout Supports.

"Do you know what Uncle Grumble said after seeing you in that new rainy-day suit?"

"No. What did the old idiot say?"

"He said he should never see a square piano without thinking of you."

—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Washington, Jan 28.—A report of our Asiatic trade, prepared by Mr. Frank H. Hitchcock, chief of the agricultural department, shows that there has been a great development of our trade with China and Japan during the past decade. Record figures were easily reached in the fiscal year 1899 when the value of merchandise exchanged with these two countries, including the port of Hong Kong, reached \$87,305,688 against only \$46,294,167 in 1889. The four years following 1889 witnessed a steady increase that finally culminated in 1893 with a record of \$60,281,386, the highest up to that time. In the year 1896, during which our importations were greatly curtailed as a result of the prevailing financial depression, the trade dropped to \$51,513,149, and thereafter rose steadily by leaps and bounds.

Spartanburg, Jan 23.—The Spartanburg city council has determined to make permanent street improvements in this city in the way of paving and the customary uses of granite in front of residences. It has not yet been decided whether asphalt or brick will be used for the streets. An issue of \$50.00 bonds will be required to install this much-needed and sadly neglected measure. The general assembly will be requested to pass an act authorizing the issue, and then the people of this city will vote on the question. It is safe to surmise that a majority of residents want the improvements.

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Modoc



Will Stand the Season in Sumter

—AT—

Boyle's Stables

Chestnut Stallion, foaled May 1892; bred by Maj. Campbell Brown, Ewell Stock Farm, Tennessee.

"MODOC" sired by McKee, 2.18; sire Jan Lady Redowa; registered in Vol. 12 American Stud Book. He is one of the finest bred stallions in the State; bred for size, style, beauty and speed. He is of kind and gentle disposition. A sure foot setter.

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State of South Carolina, COUNTY OF SUMTER.

T. V. Walsh, Esq., Probate Judge.

WHEREAS, J. McFADDIN SPANN, made suit to me to grant him Letters of Administration of the Estate of and effects of S. ROBERT SPANN, deceased. These are therefore to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said S. Robert Spann, late of said County and State, deceased, that they be and appear before me, in the Court of Probate, to be held at Sumter C. H., on February 7th, 1900, next, after publication thereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said Administration should not be granted.

Given under my hand this 24th day of January, A. D., 1900.

THOS V. WALSH, Judge of Probate.

Jan 24—21

STILL MOVING.

I am handling considerable quantities of

HORSES AND MULES.

Will have in C. Load Mules on 13th and C. Load Horses in the early part of the coming week.

H. HARRY.

Sumter, S. C., Jan. 11, 1900.

FOR SALE.

One small 2nd hand Safe. Cabbage Plants grown in the open air